



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Poland
to the United Nations Office and
the International Organizations in Vienna**

Poland Statement

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee COPUOS, 09.02.2023

Agenda item 3. General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for your, Ambassador, able leadership of the Subcommittee and ensure you of our continuous support for your efforts.

At the outset, I wish to express, on behalf of the delegation of Poland, our deepest condolences to the people of Turkiye and Syria after devastating earthquake which took place few days ago. In solidarity with those affected, Poland immediately dispatched rescue team, consist of 76 highly qualified rescuers, dogs and specialized equipment.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to the Director Hedman, and his staff, for their intersessional preparatory work leading to this session. We thank you once again for all the support the Subcommittee gets from you. We know that your work is really reflecting your true dedication to the COPUOS system and matters that we examine.

It is also our pleasure to welcome new members of the Committee - Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union; we share the EU's concerns and goals like safeguarding the long-term use of outer space for peaceful purposes on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis and space debris mitigation and remediation in order to preserve the outer space in a peaceful manner for present and future generation: to leave them hope for development and discoveries instead of a problem - a debris to clean up.

We also join the UE and several other delegations in strong condemnation of Russian aggression, in call for the immediate withdrawal of occupation troops from the Ukrainian territory as well as in expressing support and solidarity with Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

For my country, space activity is an extremely important tool for supporting innovation, economic development and increasing the efficiency of state institutions. The space sector stimulates the development of new technologies and the innovations implemented in the space sector are used in many areas, increasing their competitiveness.

Taking into account our national ambitions it is our intention to continue the international cooperation with partners on the basis of political documents, MoU's, and membership in the European Space Agency to develop and strengthen our space sector.

Last November, Poland has celebrated the tenth anniversary of our accession to the ESA which brought many benefits to Poland related to the construction of the national space sector. Over the last two months, we have taken two important steps related to strengthening Poland's cooperation with the European Space Agency, allowing for the development of the space sector in Poland, and at the same time related to the implementation of the Polish Space Strategy. Here what I have in mind is Poland's accession to the Incubed program in the field of Earth Observation and the conclusion of an agreement with ESA to establish a Business Incubation Center in Poland.

The launching capabilities of Poland are constantly growing. To date, Poland is internationally associated with the launch into orbit of six satellites, mostly coordinated by national research centers. During the past two years one of the most successful Polish companies launched seven nanosatellites, which will become part of commercial Earth observation satellites' constellation in the following years.

Mr. Chairman,

With growing involvement in the exploration of outer space, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is crucial to avoid harm to the Earth's orbital space environment and to guarantee the safety of space operations. We are truly convinced that Member States of COPUOS share that belief as well.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, we fully support the implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines in the process of undertaking the outer space activities. Space is our common good - only joint actions can bring good results.

Accordingly, we value efforts the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and welcome CRP.16 and its invitation to delegations to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to contribute to the future accomplishments of the Working Group.

Thank you for your attention,